

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 180974
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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-----074273 181734Z /64

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MX

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GOM PROPOSAL FOR HANDLING CAPACITY
INCREASES

REF: MEXICO 7291

1. DURING THE BILATERAL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS IN
DECEMBER 1977, THERE WAS ONLY LIMITED DISCUSSION CONCERNING
RENEWAL OF CAPACITY PRESCREENING ARRANGEMENT. CONVERSA-
TIONS TOUCHED ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE ARRANGEMENT,
SUCH AS THE NOTIFICATION PERIOD, BUT NOT ON THE PRINCIPLE
OF CONTINUING THE PRESCREENING ARRANGEMENT IN EFFECT.
DUE TO THE PRESS OF OTHER ISSUES DURING THE DECEMBER TALKS,
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO EXTENDING THE LETTERS
IN DECEMBER. HOWEVER, AT NO TIME DURING THE TALKS WERE
THE MEXICANS LED TO BELIEVE THAT WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT
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PAGE 02 STATE 180974

TO CONTINUE IN EFFECT THE THEN CURRENT CAPACITY PROCEDURES.

2. AFTER COMPLETING REVIEW OF MEXICAN PROPOSAL TO EXTEND
THE CAPACITY LETTER (PER REFTTEL), THE CONCERNED WASHINGTON
AGENCIES NOW FORESEE SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTIES WITH AGREE-
ING TO AN EXTENSION. THE MAIN PROBLEM IS THE IRRECONCI-
ABILITY OF THE CAPACITY PROCEDURE WITH CURRENT US

INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICY. THIS POLICY SEEKS TO

PROMOTE GREATER COMPETITION AMONG AIRLINES AND LESS INTERFERENCE BY GOVERNMENTS IN AIRLINE MARKETING DECISIONS. AS OUR POLICY HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY WELL DEFINED IN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE CONCERNED US AGENCIES WOULD FIND IT INCREASINGLY INOPPORTUNE TO CONTINUE RESTRICTIVE ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS THE CAPACITY LETTER.

3. IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES WITH MEXICO REGARDING ACTUAL CAPACITY LEVELS OPERATED. IT IS THEREFORE LIKELY THAT THE ACTUAL SCHEDULE CHANGES WHICH MAY BE INTRODUCED BY AIRLINE MANagements WOULD NOT IN THEMSELVES GIVE RISE TO CONCERN BY THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES. IF CAPACITY PROBLEMS WERE TO ARISE, THEY COULD BE HANDLED BY IMMEDIATE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS.

4. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT THE EMBASSY AT THE HIGHEST SUITABLE LEVEL INFORMALLY EXPLAIN TO POLICY-LEVEL MEXICAN OFFICIALS THAT THE EXTENSION OF THE CAPACITY LETTERS AT THIS TIME WOULD CREATE A SERIOUS DOMESTIC POLICY PROBLEM FOR THE USG. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, WE WOULD PREFER THAT DURING THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, CAPACITY INCREASES BE GOVERNED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 180974

CONSULTATION PROVISION OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT. IF, AT THE END OF THE YEAR, EITHER COUNTRY WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH DEVELOPMENTS, WE WOULD THEN REVIEW THE SITUATION BILATERALLY.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD REFER IN ITS REPRESENTATION TO THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND MEXICO ENJOYED IN CIVIL AVIATION AND TO THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION WHICH HAS MOVED US AUTHORITIES TO GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR NEW ROUTES BETWEEN US AND MEXICO. CHRISTOPHER

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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